

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01

COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 AID-20 PC-04 OPR-02 AGR-20

INT-08 SCEM-02 RSR-01 /158 W
----- 119554

P R 031921 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4784

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

CINCSO

DIA

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINT, UY

SUBJ: TOWARDS NORMALIZATION?

CINCSO FOR POLAD

1. SUMMARY: GENERAL STRIKE SITUATION HAS EASED, BUT NOT ENDED. LABOR ACTIVITY REMAINS SPOTTY, ALTHOUGH BASIC SERVICES ARE BEING MAINTAINED. END SUMMARY

2. MINISTRY OF LABOR ISSUED COMMUNIQUE JULY 2 INFORMING PUBLIC THAT WORK AND SERVICES IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY WERE COMPLETELY NORMAL AND THAT THOSE IN MONTEVIDEO WERE GRADUALLY IMPROVING. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION HAS LARGELY NORMALIZED DURING DAYLIGHT HOURS, BUT OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS CONTINUE TO BE SPOTTY. CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ARE STILL OUT. BANKS WHICH HAVE OPENED ARE WORKING MAINLY WITH MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL. PORT ACTIVITIES CONTINUE TO BE HAMPERED BY
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THE ABSENCE OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF. A NUMBER OF FACTORIES, SUCH AS TEXTILE PLANTS, CONTINUE TO BE COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN. WORKERS AT GAS COMPANY HAVE INTERRUPTED SERVICE BOTH YESTERDAY EVENING AND THIS MORNING (ALTHOUGH THEY RESUMED SERVICE DURING NORMAL MEAL HOURS SO AS TO MINIMIZE PUBLIC INCONVENIENCE). OTHER SOURCES INDICATE THAT ANCAP REFINERY HAS BEEN PUT OUT OF OPERATION BY WHAT IS TERMED " WORKER SABOTAGE", ALTHOUGH EXISTING RESERVES CONSIDERED TO BE SUFFICIENT UNTIL PLANT CAN BE REOPENED. ENGINEERING PERSONNEL WHO HAD REFUSED TO RETURN TO WORK WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY TODAY AND SENT TO REFINERY. DAMAGE IS EXPECTED TO BE REPAIRED IN DAY OR TWO.

3. MINISTER OF INTERIOR BOLENTINI, IN PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, AFFIRMED THAT THE EXECUTIVE WILL NOT SEEK AN UNDERSTANDING WITH THE DISSOLVED COMMUNIST- DOMINATED CNT LABOR CONFEDERATION. BUT BOLENTINI, IN AN APPARENTLY FRIENDLY GESTURE TOWARDS FORMER CNT AFFILIATES, ALSO TOLD REPORTERS THAT DEMOCRATIC CUT LABOR CONFEDERATION DID NOT REPRESENT ALL THE WORKERS OF THE COUNTRY AND THAT THE EXECUTIVE IS PREPARED TO ESTABLISH A " CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE" WITH THE WORKER'S OWN LEADERSHIP ONCE STRIKE ACTIVITIES HAVE ENDED. BOLENTINI ALSO STATED THAT THE EXECUTIVE WILL ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION ON THE JULY 1 WAGE AND PRICE ADJUSTMENT SOMETIME TODAY (JULY 3).

4. " FRENTE AMPLIO" NEWSPAPERS " AHORA" AND " EL POPULAR", AFTER SEVERAL DAYS OF ABSENCE, REAPPEARED TODAY. BOTH PAPERS HEADLINED ALLEGED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN " FRENTE AMPLIO" AND BLANCO PARTY, BUT FAILED TO CARRY ANY ARTICLES ON THE NATURE OF ACCORD. " FRENTE" PAPERS WERE EXTREMELY GINGER IN THEIR COVERAGE OF NATIONAL NEWS,

5. MODERATE COLORADO PARTY NEWSPAPER " EL DIA" ALSO PUBLISHED TODAY AFTER BEING CLOSED DOWN BY CNT AFFILIATED UNION FOR SEVERAL DAYS. THE PAPER REPRINTED VOLUMINOUS TRANSCRIPTS FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS IN DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTION BY PRESIDENT BORDABERRY. COLORADO LIST 15 FACTION NEWSPAPER " ACCION", AFTER THREE- DAY SUSPENSION, SOUGHT TO PUBLISH " SWAN SONG" EDITION YESTERDAY WITH STRONG ANTI- DICTATORIAL EDITORIAL SIGNED BY FACTION LEADER JORGE BATLLE. EDITION WAS SEIZED PRIOR TO DISTRIBUTION AND " ACCION" OFFICIAL CLAIMS THAT THE PAPER WILL NOT PUBLISH AGAIN UNTIL " FREEDOM OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PRESS" RESTORED. PAPER HAS SERIOUS INTERNAL LABOR PROBLEMS.

6. COMMENT: SITUATION CONTINUES TO BE TENSE AND UNCERTAIN. BLANCO SUPPORTERS OF WILSON FERREIRA ALDUNATE ARE SEEKING TO DISTRIBUTE CLANDESTINELY COPIES OF HIS JULY 2 RADIO ADDRESS FROM BUENOS AIRES, CALLING FOR THE REMOVAL OF BORDABERRY. HOWEVER, SENIOR BLANCO POLITICIAN TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS TODAY

THAT BLANCO DIRECTORATE CONFUSED AND NOT CERTAIN AS TO WHAT
COURSE IT SHOULD TAKE. CONSERVATIVE BLANCO ELEMENTS APPEAR
RELUCTANT TO JOIN IN COMMON FRONT WITH " FRENTE AMPLIO",
ALTHOUGH AT THE SAME TIME THEY ARE DEEPLY DISCOURAGED BY THE
ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE/ MILITARY. SOURCE CLOSE TO PRESIDENT
BORDABERRY TOLD ME YESTERDAY THAT THE PRESIDENT FEELS IN COMPLETE
CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENTS AND THAT HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE
MILITARY AND OF THE NATION BEHIND HIM. HOWEVER, STRIKE
SITUATION REMAINS UNCERTAIN. WHILE MOST INFLUENTIAL GROUPS
IN THE EXECUTIVE/ MILITARY AND LABOR MOVEMENT CONTINUE TO
APPEAR DESIROUS OF AVOIDING VIOLENCE, PRESENT DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN CONTENDING FORCES ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE QUICKLY
RESOLVED AND DANGER OF VIOLENT OUTBREAK REMAINS.
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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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